

## Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AGR-20 SPC-03 SAM-01 AID-20

EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 INT-08 L-03 H-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /218 W  
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R 201303Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4021  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: GOJ ANNOUNCES PRICE INCREASE FOR  
COMMONWEALTH SUGAR

1. SPEAKING AT A FEBRUARY 18 SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE  
CONCERNING THE OUTCOME OF RECENT CARICOM/UK SUGAR  
NEGOTIATIONS, PRIME MINISTER MANLEY ANNOUNCED A J\$45 PER TON  
SUGAR INCREASE TO A NEW CSA PRICE OF J\$168.  
FLANKING PM AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE WERE MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE MUNN, CHAIRMAN OF SUGAR INDUSTRY AUTHORITY,  
FLETCHER AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND TOURISM  
P. J. PATTERSON WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM LONDON NEGOTIATIONS.  
MANLEY ANNOUNCED PRICE INCREASE EFFECTIVE FOR 1974  
ONLY SINCE PRESENT CSA AGREEMENT EXPIRES THIS YEAR,  
BUT NEW PRICE DID ENABLE CARIBBEAN TO COVER PRODUCTION  
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COSTS WHICH HAD INCREASED APPROXIMATELY 44 PERCENT

SINCE 1971. PRICE INCREASE WILL ALSO ENABLE INDUSTRY TO MEET GUARANTEED MINIMUM PRICE OF J\$155 A TON TO PRODUCERS WITHOUT ADDITIONAL "MAJOR BUDGETARY SUPPORT". WITH REFERENCE TO EEC MANLEY INDICATED UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE GOVERNED BY "REALITIES OF SITUATION" AND EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO GET A BETTER PRICE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTION, PATTERSON ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SUGAR SHIPMENTS TO THE UK HAD RESUMED AND ONE PRESENTLY ENROUTE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, PATTERSON ALSO STATED THAT UK MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, GODBER STATED THAT "THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE SUCCESS THEY WERE IF MR. MANLEY HAD NOT INTERVENED AT THE OUTSET." IN ADDITION TO FRONT-PAGE ARTICLES IN BOTH DAILY GLEANER AND DAILY NEWS, DAILY GLEANER EDITORIAL ALSO EULOGIZED PRIME MINISTER MANLEY'S "INITIATIVE" AND STATED, "JAMAICA'S COURAGE AND NEGOTIATING SKILLS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN TAKING TO ALL COMMONWEALTH SUGAR PRODUCERS A BENEFIT WHICH FEW DARED TO HOPE FOR AT THE OUTSET OF MR. MANLEY'S QUEST."

3. COMMENT: AS WELL AS GOJ OFFICIALS, BOTH PRESS AND RADIO COVERAGE HAVE BEEN COMPARABLE TO THAT OF PREVIOUS OCCASIONS IN RECENT MONTHS WHEN PM HAS ANNOUNCED RESULT OF EITHER CARICOM NEGOTIATIONS OR ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS POSSIBLE BAUXITE PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION. INFERENCE IS CLEAR THAT THE CARIBBEAN'S MAN IN FOREIGN CAPITALS IS "SUPERMANLEY" WHO HAD DONE IT AGAIN FOR THE CARIBBEAN AND THIS TIME FOR THE COMMONWEALTH AS WELL. HEWITT

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## Message Attributes

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